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low-rock, Carroll Co., West Tennessee, collected first in fruit, September, 1867 in flower, July, 1886, *Gattinger*; also, "W. Mississippi or E. Tennessee," *Dr. J. T. Stewart*, 1863. *Dr. Gattinger* describes it as "growing in a swampy region difficult to penetrate, amidst *Rosa Caroliniana* and *Nyssa aquatica*." He found two shrubs, and no more. The *Stewart* specimen is in the Harvard herbarium, and is simply a fragment of a fruiting specimen which has remained undetermined, but it is undoubtedly this species. The great peculiarity consists in the deeply five-lobed capsule, which is more differentiated than in any other member of the genus and serves well to distinguish the species. Some species are slightly lobed, but in this case the carpels seem almost distinct and are simply held together by their attachment to a central axis, from which they fall away at maturity. The size and general habit of the plant are like *H. densiflorum*, with perhaps even denser flower clusters, while the broad leaves are exactly those of *H. prolificum*. Mr. Canby has collected New Jersey forms of *H. densiflorum* bearing the leaves of *H. prolificum*, which closely resemble *H. lobocarpum*, except in the capsule characters. *Dr. Gattinger* is to be commended for the persistence with which he urged the claims of this species to recognition.—*JOHN M. COULTER*.

**How the humble-bee obtains nectar from *Physostegia Virginiana*.—**

While passing through a patch of the "False Dragon-head," I noticed that a goodly number of a large species of humble-bee were alighting on the flowers and darting their heads deep in between the calyx and corolla, at the upper side of the latter. At first I thought they were collecting nectar from between the calyx and corolla, and commenced to look for the glands. But on inspection, I found that on the upper side of many of the corollas, near the base, was a longitudinal slit, usually near one-third inch long. This was the case in nearly all the older flowers examined, while in those just opened, or still opening, the slit was usually absent. On gently pressing down on the outer portion of the slitted flowers, I found that the sides of the opening were thrown apart, thus exposing the upper portion of the four-lobed ovary and lower parts of the pistil and stamens, and making access easy to the nectary glands at the base of the ovary. In addition to the humble-bee there were a number of other insects visiting the flowers, but they entered in the usual way, through the corolla. It is not unusual to find tubular flowers, especially the closed gentians and *Tecoma radicans*, with holes eaten through them near the base, through which insects pass in and out, which holes are nearly always made by ants. But I do not remember to have seen any record of instances where an insect made a slit, through which to collect the sweets of a flower.—*J. SCHNECK, Mt. Carmel, Ill.*

**Home-made bacteria apparatus.**—For the cultivation of bacteria and other microscopic organisms certain utensils are essential, others are very serviceable without being indispensable. The German investigators have given much attention to the construction of incubators, sterilizers, culture vessels of various kinds, implements and accessories in great numbers, and of convenient utility. If it is desired to fit up a complete laboratory for the study of these